



TEXAS JUVENILE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT

Executive Director's Report

MARCH 2014

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Note of Appreciation to the Thousands of Juvenile Justice Professionals Around the State (TJJD & County Juvenile Probation Departments)

I want to use the Executive Director report to memorialize, for the record, how much I admire the work you perform for the citizens of Texas. Our profession requires a commitment that few people understand.

In thirty-eight years of working in the juvenile justice system I have never worked with a finer group of people. You have raised the bar for juvenile justice in this state to the highest level in our profession's history.

I know I speak for the thousands of juvenile board members, county commissioners and our TJJD Board in saying – Thank You.

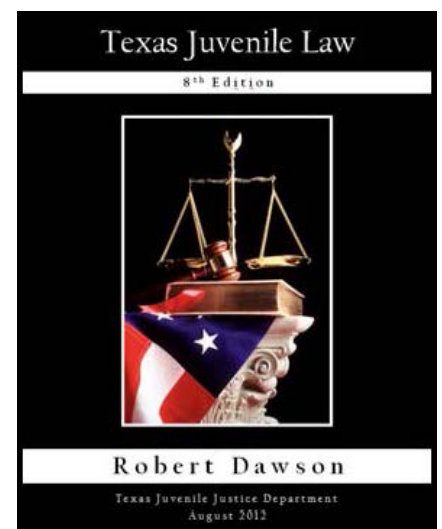
Please stay the course and don't let anything sway you from the task of helping young adults placed in our care.

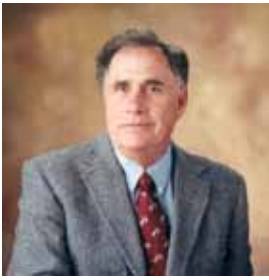
*Respectfully Yours
– Mike*

TJJD Commemorates 30 Years of Texas Juvenile Law

Planning Begins for the Publication of the 9th Edition in 2016

The Texas Juvenile Justice Department (TJJD) is proud to commemorate the 30th anniversary of Texas Juvenile Law, the foremost legal reference treatise for juvenile justice practitioners in Texas. Affectionately referred to as the "operator's manual for the juvenile justice system", this book is an important educational and reference tool for practitioners statewide. The former Texas Juvenile Probation Commission (TJPC) began publishing the book in 1984 and it is impossible to talk about this book without remembering its original author. Professor Robert O.





*Robert O. Dawson
1939-2005*

Dawson (Bob) was the former Bryant Smith Chair in Law at the University of Texas School of Law in Austin. Professor Dawson, author of the first six editions of the book, died on February 26, 2005, and the juvenile justice profession has greatly felt the magnitude of this loss nearly ten years ago. Bob gave generously of his time and expertise to juvenile justice professionals across the state and nation and to the legislative leadership of Texas on all issues affecting the juvenile justice system. As the original and primary draftsman of Title 3 of the Family Code in 1973 and the significant reforms in 1995, Professor Dawson fiercely advocated for youth in the juvenile justice system and both of TJJD's predecessor agencies (i.e.,

the Texas Youth Commission and TJPC). His contributions were significant and Texas Juvenile Law documents not only the current state of the juvenile system and the governing law, but contains invaluable historic perspectives and chronologies of the development of the system since 1973. After Professor Dawson's death in 2005, TJPC attorneys took over the full responsibility for writing, editing and publishing Texas Juvenile Law, publishing the 7th Edition in 2008.

After the merger of TYC and TJPC in 2011, the fate of this publication was uncertain as successful completion of merger activities was the paramount focus of the new agency. In the fall of 2012, TJJD Executive Director, Mike Griffiths, reaffirmed the commitment to publish the books and TJJD proudly continued the tradition of Professor Dawson and TJPC with the publication of the 8th Edition of Texas Juvenile Law in December 2012. TJJD attorneys Lisa Capers, Nydia Thomas and Chris Cowan, who had worked on the previous Editions of the book, led a team of committed staff internal and external to the agency in making the two-volume, 8th Edition a reality in the midst of the merger activities and the beginning of the new TJJD.

The First Edition of the book was originally published in 1984 following the 1983 legislative session. A new edition of Texas Juvenile Law is published after every other legislative session and a supplement is published after each of the interim legislative sessions. The First Edition was directed primarily at juvenile court judges and juvenile probation officers. It became a standard reference work for those users, but it was also used by law enforcement, educators, prosecutors, defense attorneys and justice and municipal court staff. Accordingly, beginning with the Second Edition, the scope of the book has increased to include subjects of interest to those users as well. Professor Dawson was always very proud that the people who run the juvenile justice system, or participate in its operation, have found Texas Juvenile Law to be a valuable reference tool. The book is used extensively by juvenile justice practitioners but is also frequently cited by appellate courts as well. This treatise has also become an important acquisition for university and county libraries. TJJD again continued the tradition of providing complimentary copies of the book set to probation departments, juvenile courts, appellate courts and the legislature as a public service of the agency. In 2012, nearly 1,400 complimentary copies of the two-volume set were provided to practitioners statewide. Additional copies were made available for sale at cost.

As TJJD celebrates the 30th anniversary of this publication, the Administration and Training Division has begun the planning phase for the publication of 9th Edition of

TJJD Employees Assist Accident Victims

On Wednesday morning, March 5, 2014, a head-on car collision occurred southeast of Brownwood. UTMB Clinical Case Manager Renae Koen, R.N., came upon the accident and provided the following account:

"I would like to say that I was very proud of the ladies and gentlemen in the green TJJD shirts. I pulled up on a head on collision this morning and we could not get into the vehicle to help the man that was still barely alive. Suddenly there were green shirts everywhere! TJJD staff that were on their way to training jumped out and jumped in the mess and were able to get into the vehicle so that aid could be rendered. WAY TO GO TJJD STAFF! Very proud of the heart that I saw this morning in these people."

The staff involved were all on their way to pre-service training. Upon arrival at the crash site, Ms. Kendra Galloway went through the back window which was broken out and began rescue breaths. Adam Owen, Robert Thompson, and Jamey Williams got a crow bar and opened the door to the vehicle. Mr. Thompson then began chest compressions. They performed CPR until paramedics and DPS arrived which was about 30 minutes. Mary Van Hollebeke and Justin Doss directed traffic.

Our special thanks go to Ms. Galloway, Mr. Owen, Mr. Thompson, Mr. Williams, Ms. Van Hollebeke and Justin Doss for their quick action and for representing the high values and character of our employees and our agency. ■

Texas Juvenile Law which is scheduled to be published in the spring of 2016. Amidst tight budgetary constraints and limited staff resources, a publication endeavor of this magnitude will be challenging for TJJD. Editing of the book is ongoing at all times to update statutory changes, state and federal case law as well as attorney general opinions. Immediately after the 2015 legislative session, attorneys will begin the inclusion of any new laws. The team needed to produce this publication consists of approximately six attorneys (both internal and external to the agency), support staff, policy and budget staff, and other staff that will plan, draft, edit, market, produce and distribute the book. Thousands of man hours are devoted in the four months immediately prior to the publication deadline. It is certainly a monumental project, but TJJD is committed to once again providing this resource to juvenile justice practitioners in Texas and continuing the legacy of Professor Robert O Dawson which lives on in Texas Juvenile Law. ■



Former University of Texas and current Cleveland Browns running back Fozzy Whittaker came to the Giddings State School on Sunday, March 23, 2014. Whittaker spoke to a number of Giddings youth about his life experiences, his football career, and the obstacles he has had to overcome to achieve his dream. ■

Evins Youth Participate in Saturday Enhancement Program

One by one 15 youth at the Evins Regional Juvenile Center walked into the family center and sat in to listen to representatives from the Gary Job Corps as part of the ongoing Saturday Enhancement Activity Program. Administered by the U.S. Department of Labor, Job Corps is the nation's largest career technical training and education program for low-income young people ages 16-24.

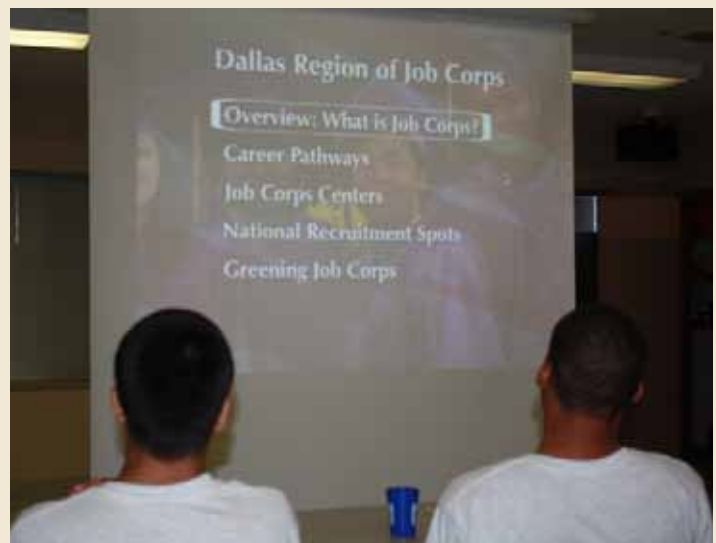
Outreach & Admissions Assistant for Gary Job Corps Angela Torres began her presentation by telling the youth that the program is federally funded and each student gets a scholarship grant worth \$24,500 for whatever program they choose and about the variety of hands-on trades offered.

Upon graduation every student is given a \$1,000 bonus to use for whatever they need to get them started in the workforce. Students who are age 18 can apply by themselves and their parent's income or resources won't be considered for enrollment. If the youth is under the age of 18 and the parents are receiving any type of federal or state assistance they will automatically qualify.

One youth in attendance asked about offenses and whether the fact that he assaulted someone would disqualify him. Torres stated that each case is reviewed individually and that most likely will not since it happen sometime back and while under the age of 18.

After hearing the presentation, one youth said, "This is a good opportunity for me if I really want to change my life around. I would really consider joining the Gary Job Corps."

Saturday Enhancement Activities are held every other month to provide youth opportunities to learn and participate in proactive activities that help to enhance career development and employability skills, self-sufficiency, family reintegration and self-advocacy. ■





Bishop Michael Sis visits Ron Jackson Campus for Confirmation Service

Newly installed Bishop of the San Angelo Diocese Michael Sis visited Ron Jackson March and met with TJJD youth and gave the Sacrament of Confirmation to one special young lady.

Before Roman Catholic students receive their Sacraments, they must first complete a 12-week course of study. Dedicated Ron Jackson volunteers take turns teaching the Sacramental Preparation classes every Wednesday evening, most of them driving from San Angelo or further. March 8 marked the completion of this commitment for one young lady as she received her First Communion and Confirmation.

Bishop Sis was invited to the campus by the Ministry of the Third Cross volunteers after hearing of the work they do with the students of Ron Jackson. This was Bishop Sis' first opportunity to give the Sacrament of Confirmation in his new position. ■

TJJD Receives Grant Awards

On February 11, 2014 TJJD received notice of award from the Oregon Youth Authority (OYA) on the Youth Reformation System (YRS) technical assistance grant. Texas is one of only three states selected to participate in this award.

The purpose of this grant is to assist TJJD in data-driven decisions as they apply to the agency's strategic priority to develop and promote leadership and capacity to transform organizational cultures to best serve youth.

Agency representatives have already started conversations with OYA surrounding the scope of the technical assistance we will focus our efforts on to improve youth outcomes.

Some of these discussions include:

- using data to make informed decisions
- data warehouse; access to good data
- collection and presentation of data on secure facilities
- program evaluation continuum

TJJD is pleased to have been awarded these funds to continue to achieve the strategies that support our mission. The executive team would like to thank Theresa Stroud, Daniel Gunter and Kati Kieffer for their efforts in procuring this opportunity for TJJD and the youth we serve.

On March 11, 2014 TJJD received notice of award from the Office of the Governor for the DJ-Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program. The purpose of this grant is to improve court services by providing legal counsel to indigent youth. By law, these youth are entitled to due process hearings and to have attorney representation at those hearings. Therefore, TJJD shall provide legal defense for indigent youth by contracting with defense attorneys around the state.

The Office of the General Counsel has been awarded these funds for the remainder of FY 2014 to support indigent youth representation during certain administrative due process hearings. ■



Family Day

On Valentine's Day, 38 youth along with 61 family members participated in a Family Day at McLennan County State Juvenile Correctional Facility – Side 2. Family Liaison Mary Garrity organized the event with staff from across campus running Valentine-themed carnival games. The families were invited to have pictures made with their youth in front of a backdrop of hearts in keeping with the theme. From Pin the Arrow on the Heart to the Cupcake Walk, everyone had a great time! ■

Ron Jackson Volunteers Facilitate an Interpersonal Communication Class

Ron Jackson volunteers Lauren Moeller, Stephen Henry and Amanda Hill, all graduate students in Communications at Angelo State, facilitated the first of a three-part interpersonal communication/interviewing class on Saturday March 8th. This curriculum was designed by Lauren Moeller, an active volunteer of two years whose work at Ron Jackson led her to the conclusion that she could use her experience to meet a need of TJJD youth.

Twenty girls participated in a two-hour class where they learned to introduce themselves properly and collaborated to make a story out of unrelated words that were provided to them, which they then read aloud. They also chose a topic for a speech which they will be working on and presenting over the next two sessions. ■



TJJD Employees Recognized for Charitable Contributions

The Capital Area State Employee Charitable Campaign awarded TJJD's Austin Office and Giddings State School with its 2013 Rising Star Award for the category of state agencies with 500-1500 employees. This annual award recognizes SECC campaigns in the Capital Area with the most improved results from the year before. Our Central Office and Giddings State School are within the Capital Area and together accomplished a 30% increase in charitable giving.

Giddings Superintendent Jorge Gonzales, Community Relations Coordinator Cindy Allen and Tammy Holland from Central Office accepted the award on behalf of TJJD at the February awards ceremony in Austin. Cindy coordinated the charitable campaign at the Giddings State School. Tammy coordinated the campaign at the Austin office, along with many other department representatives. Together, Giddings and Austin Office employees pledged \$27,439.08. Agency-wide, TJJD employees pledged \$57,078.08 in the SECC. ■





Evins Youth Celebrate Bishop's Birthday

Thirty-nine youth and several volunteers gathered on Wednesday night, Feb. 12, at the Evins Regional Juvenile Center to surprise Bishop Pena with a birthday cake and songs of Happy Birthday and Las Mananitas (Spanish version). The Bishop travels to Evins once a month to meet with the youth and picks a topic to share with them. The topic this evening was on respecting yourselves, your friends and most importantly your staff.

"We don't like to be told what to do but many times that is the right thing to do," Bishop Pena told the youth. "Listen very carefully before you react and act appropriately, do the right thing so that you can all go home with family."

After the talk, Bishop Pena heard confessions from those that wanted to do so. Supervising along with JCO staff was Superintendent Donald Brooks, who thanked the Bishop for his time and service to the youth at Evins. Belinda Martinez, the new director of security, noted, "The youth were very well behaved, getting along very well and the fact that they were engaged by the Bishop and volunteers was amazing." Volunteers prepared chicken sandwiches with chips and soda for all in attendance. The cake read Happy 80th Birthday Bishop Pena. ■

Navarro College Program Benefits TJJD Youth

Submitted by Sheri Short, Navarro College

In August 2009, Navarro College and TJJD entered into a partnership that has allowed over 600 youth to be enrolled in college. The first semester, only a handful of youth participated. But last year, 149 youth from 13 locations, completed 302 courses, (English 1301 and 1302, College Algebra, Economics, Government and History, for example) with an 86 percent pass rate. The program is changing lives and empowering the youth to choose a different path to success.

Most of the youth never thought of college as an option. The majority are the first in the family to enroll. Just succeeding in one class gives the youth the confidence to keep going. Parents are very pleased when the youth participate.

It works because of the commitment of all involved. Under the direction of TJJD Education Director Amy Lopez and Manager of Halfway Houses Karen Lashbrook youth are tested, registered and have the supplies needed to participate. Efrain Resendez, Network Support Liaison, is in charge of internet secure connections and security for all locations and to Navarro College. Sheri Short, Navarro College TJJD Liaison oversees the program coordination for the college. It takes a coordinated effort each day on both sides of the partnership.

Terina Robinson, HWH Superintendent summed it up, "Sheri Short along with the Navarro College staff have created an amazing partnership with TJJD by enabling youth here at York Halfway House to have the opportunity to make positive choices and to focus on making a successful re-entry back into the community with less chance of recidivism. York staff has seen visible signs of an increase in self-esteem, a motivation to learn, and an overall sense of determination in the youth that have participated in the Navarro classes."

Youth in a secure institution can enroll, begin class and if transferred to a halfway house or private contractor, can continue to complete the course at the next placement without missing a class day. Student RG, Collin County, attended Navarro College in Corsicana. She violated her probation conditions and was placed in a post-adjudication facility in Collin County. She is still enrolled in Navarro College and just completed her first semester and will be enrolling in a second semester while in the county facility.

At the request of Mr. Griffiths, Navarro College has offered this opportunity to the county probation departments with long term post-adjudication programs and JJAEP programs. Collin County and Travis County are currently participating.

At the conclusion of their first course, Travis County students said:

I really enjoyed having such a challenging subject as my first college course. I struggled in the beginning but the teacher gave us helpful tips and strategies. Thanks for encouraging us to have such a successful career!

-DS

I loved the class and I want to continue my education but I'm not smart. However, the class helped me become a better speaker. I really enjoyed the class and I enjoy listening to the speeches from other students.

-JL

Over the eight week course of public speaking, I have grown to be more adept in the organization of my speeches as well as performing them in front of an audience. I became a more proficient speaker in topics that I was comfortable with. My classmates gave me feedback on what I need to work on and explained a variety of ways to organize my topics. This course has allowed me to consider an occupation in public speaking.

-VT

All academic classes offered are core courses, transferable to any public college or university in the state. Sheri Short, Navarro College Program Coordinator is very enthusiastic about being a part of this experience. "When a youth has a Navarro College transcript in hand upon release, it benefits them in ways we could not have anticipated. Instead of having to account for lost time with "I've been locked up", he can now say, "I've been attending Navarro College." It helps bridge the transitional gap that the youth experience.

Youth continue a college education in a number of colleges. For those who choose to transition to Navarro College, they find a very supportive environment. Youth are assisted in all aspects of college life from how to open a bank account, to developing good study skills, to finding employment and much more.

YE completed 21 hours while in the Mart facility. Upon release he transferred to Navarro College and enrolled in the Petroleum Tech program. He has a 3.75 grade point average, and after this semester will have completed a total of 59 hours. He is on the Dean's list, employed on campus, and is an Honors Student. "As proud as I am of YE, I am just as proud of others who experience success by completing a developmental class or participating in an intramural sport," said Ms. Short. "We just meet them where they are and it's been a great place to start. The results speak for themselves." ■

Prevention Grants

The Texas Juvenile Justice Department has issued the following prevention grants to Texas juvenile probation departments for Fiscal Year 2014:

BASTROP COUNTY: The Cen-Tex Regional Services

Department has partnered with other community providers to provide parenting skills and education to parents whose children, ages 6-17 years of age are at increased risk of entering the juvenile justice system. The Department partners with school districts by providing drug awareness and education to students at risk of illegal and prescription drugs.

BEXAR COUNTY: The Bexar County Juvenile Probation

Department offers "Project Connect," a school based truancy prevention and early intervention program in partnership with Communities In Schools, Southwest Key and the North East Independent School District. The project targets children and youth who are at increased risk of delinquency, truancy, dropping out of school or referral to the juvenile justice system.

BURNET COUNTY: The Burnet County Juvenile Probation

Department uses trained facilitators to deliver the Curriculum Based Support Group program, a research-based curriculum which reduces anti-social attitudes and rebellious behavior through small group character-building classes. Participants are fourth and fifth grade at-risk youth in certain elementary schools in Blanco, Burnet, Gillespie, Llano, and San Saba.

CAMERON COUNTY: In collaboration with the Boys and

Girls Club of San Benito, the San Benito Consolidated Independent School District, the City of San Benito and the Cameron County Juvenile Justice Department has implemented a program that provides safe and structured afterschool activities to high risk youth, ages 6-17, with a special emphasis on siblings of youth already involved in the juvenile justice system. Activities include mentoring, tutoring, educational opportunities and social activities, with a focus on increasing school attendance and academic achievement.

CROSBY COUNTY: Crosby County Juvenile Probation

Department is offering Prevention/Intervention counseling for at-risk youth ages 6 to 17 through a Licensed Professional Counselor. Youth are identified through the Juvenile Probation department, County Sheriff's department, local city police, school districts or concerned parents.

ECTOR COUNTY: Ector County Juvenile Probation

Department's full-time intervention officer acts as an advocate for youth and works with other agencies to identify specific needs that will allow youth to remain

in or return to his or her home campus. The target population is Ector ISD students ages 6-17 years of age who have been or are at risk of being suspended off campus to a Disciplinary Alternative Education Program (DAEP) and/or expelled.

ELLIS COUNTY: Ellis County Juvenile Services collaborates with the Ennis Boys & Girls Club to provide an evidence-based afterschool mentoring program and life skills curriculum for youth between the ages of 6 to 17, with special attention on younger children. Youth are referred to the program by the Truancy Court, Municipal Court, school counselors, social agencies and parents.

EL PASO COUNTY: The El Paso Juvenile Probation Department offers the "Intervention and Prevention Program" to reduce youth-related community risk factors. Probation staff and other partners in the program have received training on evidence-based programs, bullying prevention, and strengthening families. The program targets at-risk youth ages 6-17 who are not involved with the juvenile justice system.

FORT BEND COUNTY: Fort Bend Juvenile Probation Department has implemented "Saved by the Bell" a truancy/delinquency reduction program that was created as a pilot program in 2008, serving six schools within the Fort Bend ISD. This grant added an additional Saved by the Bell juvenile probation officer to administer the same proactive case management strategies together with meaningful sanctions to the Katy Independent School District within Fort Bend County.

GUADALUPE COUNTY: The target populations for this project are elementary and middle school children and youth between the ages of 6-13 who, because of their risk factors, may be at increased risk of juvenile justice involvement. Services include transportation to afterschool programming, snacks, tutoring, computer labs, recreational activities, life skills curriculum, vocation projects, camping, and other programs designed to increase parent involvement, protective factors and success rates in school.

HALE COUNTY: The Hale County Juvenile Probation Department works with Communities in Schools (CIS) of the South Plains to provide supportive guidance and counseling, tutoring, academic enrichment, pre-employment training, mentoring, and other support services to at-risk youth. Participating students are between the ages of 6-17 years.

RANDALL COUNTY: The Randall County Juvenile Probation Department partners with Texas AgriLife Extension Service for the Randall County 4-H project.

Participants are youth ages 12-14 identified by the school district as having one or more risk factors for delinquency. Selected youth participate in the 4-H swine project, which requires approximately 300 hours of work training, cleaning out pens, feeding, walking and preparing swine for show.

TARRANT COUNTY: The Tarrant County Juvenile Probation Department, in collaboration with the Fort Worth ISD, offers a family engagement coordinator to provide a combination of case management and clinical services to youth placed in the school's Disciplinary Alternative Education Program. The coordinator provides case management services, including referrals to and follow-up with targeted clinical and auxiliary services for youth and their families most in need.

TOM GREEN COUNTY: The Tom Green Juvenile Probation Department has enhanced services provided by the Youth Advocate Mentoring Program to reach high risk youth (ages 6-13) who are not involved with the juvenile justice system but who have had incidents at school and have been referred from participating school districts to the program. Participants are provided advocate mentors who work intensively with the youth (up to 15 hours per week) and then taper services to fewer hours as the youth progress in the program. The program is available to seven counties in the West Texas area.

TRAVIS COUNTY: The Travis County Juvenile Probation Department is working with Southwest Key to provide the Family Keys Model to at-risk youth and their families. The model promotes family self-sufficiency and positive parental skills through a family-centered, culturally competent, strengths-based approach. Southwest Key works with the local school districts, local county and municipal courts to identify youth between the ages of 11 and 13 who are truant, running away, experiencing behavioral problems at school, or experiencing conflict with family members to participate in the program.

VAN ZANDT COUNTY: The Van Zandt County Juvenile Probation Department uses the "Just Kids Hands on Pets Education" program to address the needs of approximately 100 at-risk youth and families through a canine program designed to teach developmentally appropriate discipline, responsibility, compassion for life, motivational problem-solving, self-esteem and nurturing. Special needs youth may also attend a six-week program provided by licensed counselors.

WEBB COUNTY: The Webb County Juvenile Probation Department will work with the local Justices of the Peace and Southwest Key to provide Family KEYS

programming, including needs assessments, service planning, home visits, advocacy, access to other services and discharge planning, using a comprehensive wraparound approach, with an emphasis on youth age 11 to 13, who run away from home, are truant from school, or exhibiting other at-risk behaviors.

WHARTON COUNTY: The Wharton County Juvenile Probation Department partners with the “Just Do It Now” organization to help fund the “Yes We Can” program, which provides structured and supervised out-of-school activities centered on drug awareness and intervention, social skills development, mentoring, character development, leadership training and spiritual enrichment. This program targets youth who are between the ages of 6 to 18 and who are at increased risk of involvement with the juvenile justice system.

WILLACY COUNTY: The Willacy County Juvenile Probation Department contracts with a licensed professional counselor to provide children and their families with prevention and early intervention services utilizing the Strengthening Families Program (SFP). The SFP curriculum is a 14-session approach addressing deficiencies within the family unit that are contributing factors to truancy and delinquency. The target population are parents of at-risk children and adolescents between the ages of 6 years through 17 years of age and who are not currently under the supervision of the juvenile justice system.

WILLIAMSON COUNTY: The Williamson County Juvenile Probation Department provides prevention education and support groups in participating county schools, using the curriculum “Kids Connection/Youth Connection”: an evidence-based curriculum implemented by trained facilitators. Participants are at-risk, children, youth, and adolescents ages 6 through 17.

ZAPATA COUNTY: The Zapata County Juvenile Probation Department partners with King’s Way Counseling to create the SKILS + Delinquency Prevention Program. This modified after-school program has three major goals: provide a safe and supervised venue for youth during after-school hours, improve youth’s academic performance, and use mentoring to assist in character building. The initial pilot program has focused on youth who are at risk of involvement with the juvenile justice system and who are between 10-16 years old.

The following grant recipients are Grant T programs, which focus on reducing truancy through school attendance improvement initiatives. Funding for these programs is provided for FY 2014-2015.

COMAL COUNTY: The Comal County Juvenile Probation Department will hire a Prevention Services Coordinator to identify children ages 6-11 with school attendance problems and who are unsupported by youth-serving agencies, churches, non-profit organizations, civic groups or neighborhood programs.

EL PASO COUNTY: This project will provide intensive home based services (home visits, case management, service coordination, skills building, and facilitation of educational modules) to eligible youth and families meeting program criteria. The target population will be middle school youth ages 12-15 attending Riverside Middle School and their caregivers/parents. Youth must not be currently under the jurisdiction of the juvenile probation department, have any pending formal referrals, nor be under active juvenile justice supervision. Eligible youth must have demonstrated a history of low attendance and meet at least 2 individual and/or familial risk factors cited in the OJJDP’s database on Truancy Reduction Programs.

KARNES/WILSON COUNTIES: The KWCJPD Attendance Improvement Program (AIP) has hired two School Attendance Specialists who will provide intensive attendance improvement and truancy reduction services to 200 students and their families from Floresville Independent School District, Karnes City Independent School District, and Kenedy Independent School District. The AIP will provide in-school and in-home services that involves the family, making immediate contact with both the student and the family when a student referred to the AIP has an unexcused absence.

TARRANT COUNTY: This collaborative effort between Tarrant County Juvenile Services, Arlington ISD, and other community-based organizations will use of case management, assessment, mediation, and referral to the most appropriate intervention available, the project will target youth who are found to be chronically absent from the 1st to 8th grade. With an understanding of the wide variables that can impact chronic absence and truancy, interventions will range from buying an alarm clock for the family or providing support for transportation, to case management and having contract providers to provide services to both the child and family, including trauma-informed mental health intervention as indicated. ■

Employees Receiving Tenure Awards

TJJD would like to recognize the following employees who have received a tenure award since January 2013. On behalf of the agency, we extend our sincerest gratitude and appreciation for their dedication and service to the State of Texas.

February 2014

FIVE YEARS OF SERVICE

NAME	LOCATION/CENTRAL OFFICE DIVISION
Claudia I. Hawkins	<i>Tamayo House</i>
Debra A. Blackman	<i>Giddings State School</i>
Edna L. Forsch	<i>San Antonio District Office</i>
Jesse Victorio	<i>Gainesville State School</i>
Jordan W. Stogdill	<i>Gainesville State School</i>
Judd T. Baker	<i>McFadden Ranch</i>
Latoya M. Halliburton	<i>McLennan Cty</i>
Rebecca A. Bunt	<i>McLennan Cty</i>
Tyree Stanford	<i>McLennan Cty</i>
Veronica L. Williams	<i>McLennan Cty</i>

TEN YEARS OF SERVICE

Brenda F. Booker	<i>Gainesville State School</i>
Emily B. Shaw	<i>McLennan Cty</i>
Gloria O. Demery	<i>McFadden Ranch</i>
Jesus G. Franco	<i>Evins Regional Juvenile Center</i>
Nemecio Macias	<i>Tamayo House</i>
Phillip K. Walton	<i>McLennan Cty</i>
Ricky C. Humphrey	<i>McLennan Cty</i>
Ruben Salazar Jr.	<i>Evins Regional Juvenile Center</i>

FIFTEEN YEARS OF SERVICE

Charles F. Hubbard	<i>Ron Jackson State Juvenile Corr. Facility</i>
Joann C. Hernandez	<i>Austin Office/Finance</i>

TWENTY YEARS OF SERVICE

Arnold Martinez	<i>El Paso District Office</i>
Judy L. McReynolds	<i>Austin Office/Probation & Community Services</i>
Katrinia R. Williamson	<i>Ron Jackson State Juvenile Corr. Facility</i>

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OF SERVICE

Tracy A. Levins-Canning	<i>Austin Office/Probation & Community Services</i>
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THIRTY YEARS OF SERVICE

Anita K. Skinner	<i>Gainesville State School</i>
Michael A. Williams	<i>Phoenix Program</i>
Terry D. Williams	<i>McLennan Cty</i>
Walter A. Kenion Jr.	<i>Giddings State School</i>

March 2014

FIVE YEARS OF SERVICE

NAME	LOCATION/CENTRAL OFFICE DIVISION
David K. Johnson	<i>Gainesville State School</i>
Dianna R. Rios	<i>McLennan Cty</i>
Elias D. Nava	<i>Evins Regional Juvenile Center</i>
Griselda B. Casas	<i>Evins Regional Juvenile Center</i>
Quentin D. Tasby	<i>McLennan Cty</i>

TEN YEARS OF SERVICE

Cathryn J. Hudspeth	<i>Gainesville State School</i>
Julie M. Youngblood	<i>McFadden Ranch</i>
Karen G. Dunaway	<i>McLennan Cty</i>
Michael K. McWhirter	<i>Ron Jackson State Juvenile Corr. Facility</i>

FIFTEEN YEARS OF SERVICE

Bob D. Ellis	<i>Ron Jackson State Juvenile Corr. Facility</i>
Luis A. Hernandez	<i>Cottrell House</i>
Marcus L. Hornbuckle	<i>McLennan Cty</i>
Mark S. Fortress	<i>Austin Office/Technology</i>

TWENTY YEARS OF SERVICE

April Ballou	<i>Gainesville State School</i>
Christi Y. Goods	<i>Austin Office/Finance</i>
Eric Garza	<i>Gainesville State School</i>
Francisco J. Mata	<i>Austin Office/Technology</i>
Susan E. Jackson	<i>Brownwood Halfway House</i>

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OF SERVICE

Norris C. Spivey	<i>Giddings State School</i>
Spencer Caldwell	<i>Giddings State School</i>

THIRTY YEARS OF SERVICE

Charles A. Knipstein	<i>Giddings State School</i>
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